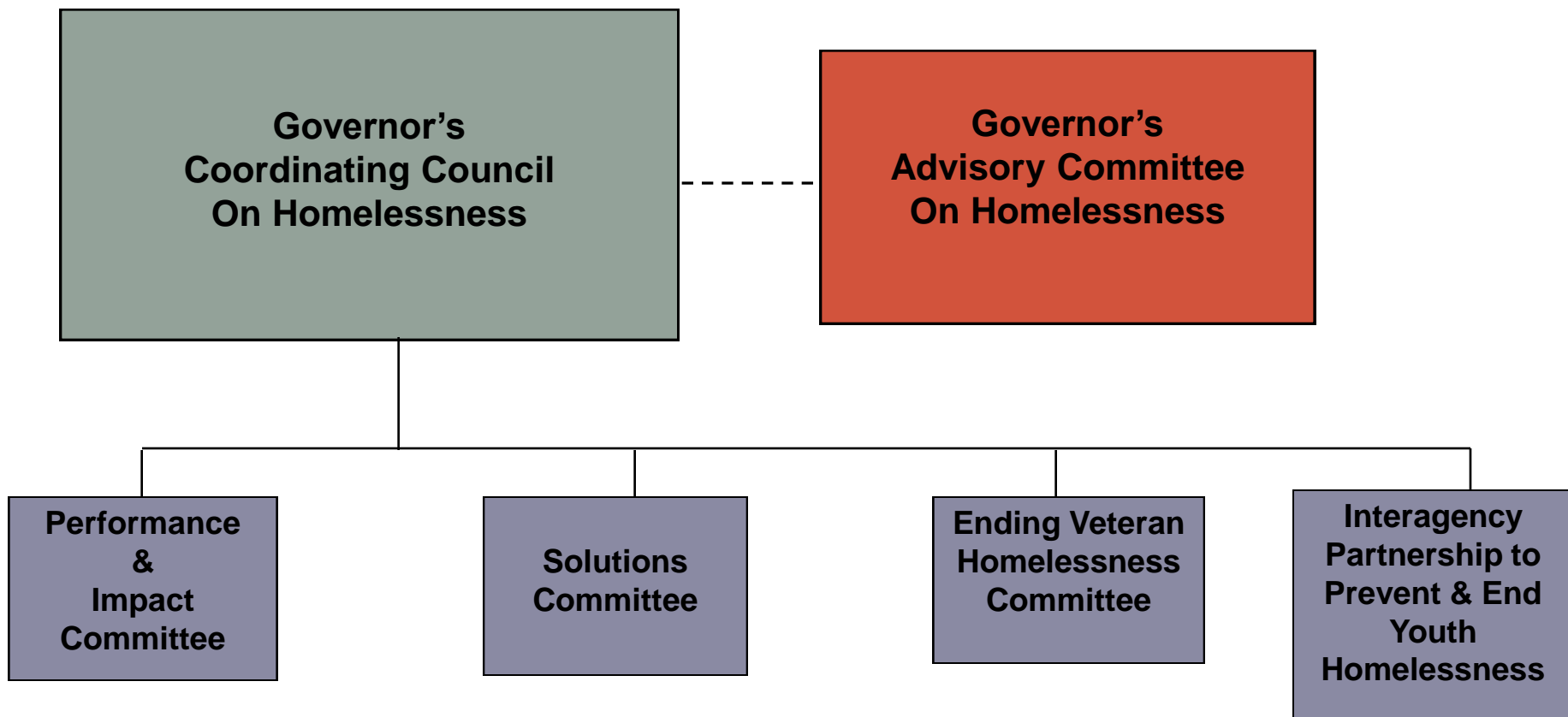


VIRGINIA'S RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS

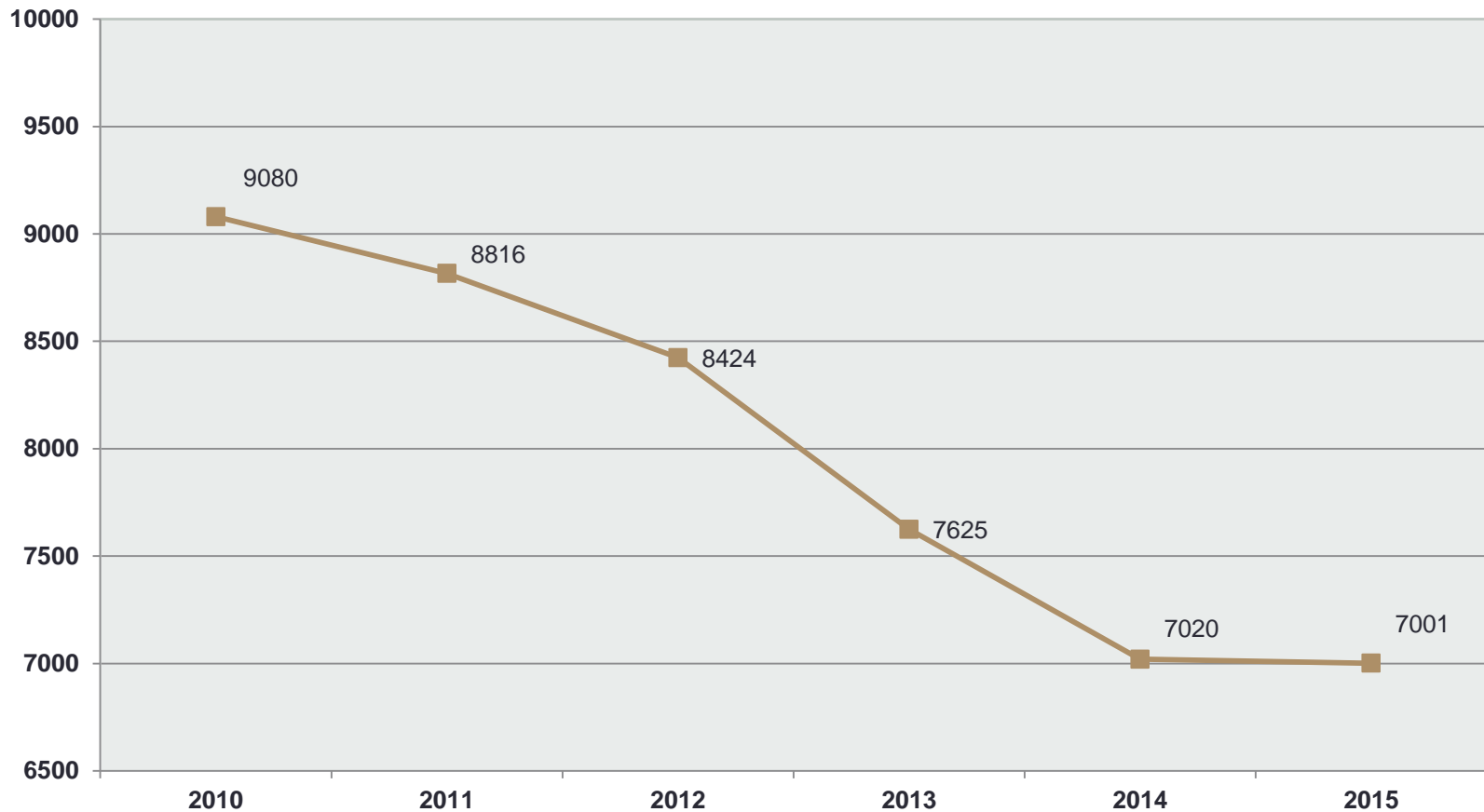
Governor's Initiative on Homelessness



Virginia's 2015 Point-in-Time Count

Total Homeless Persons

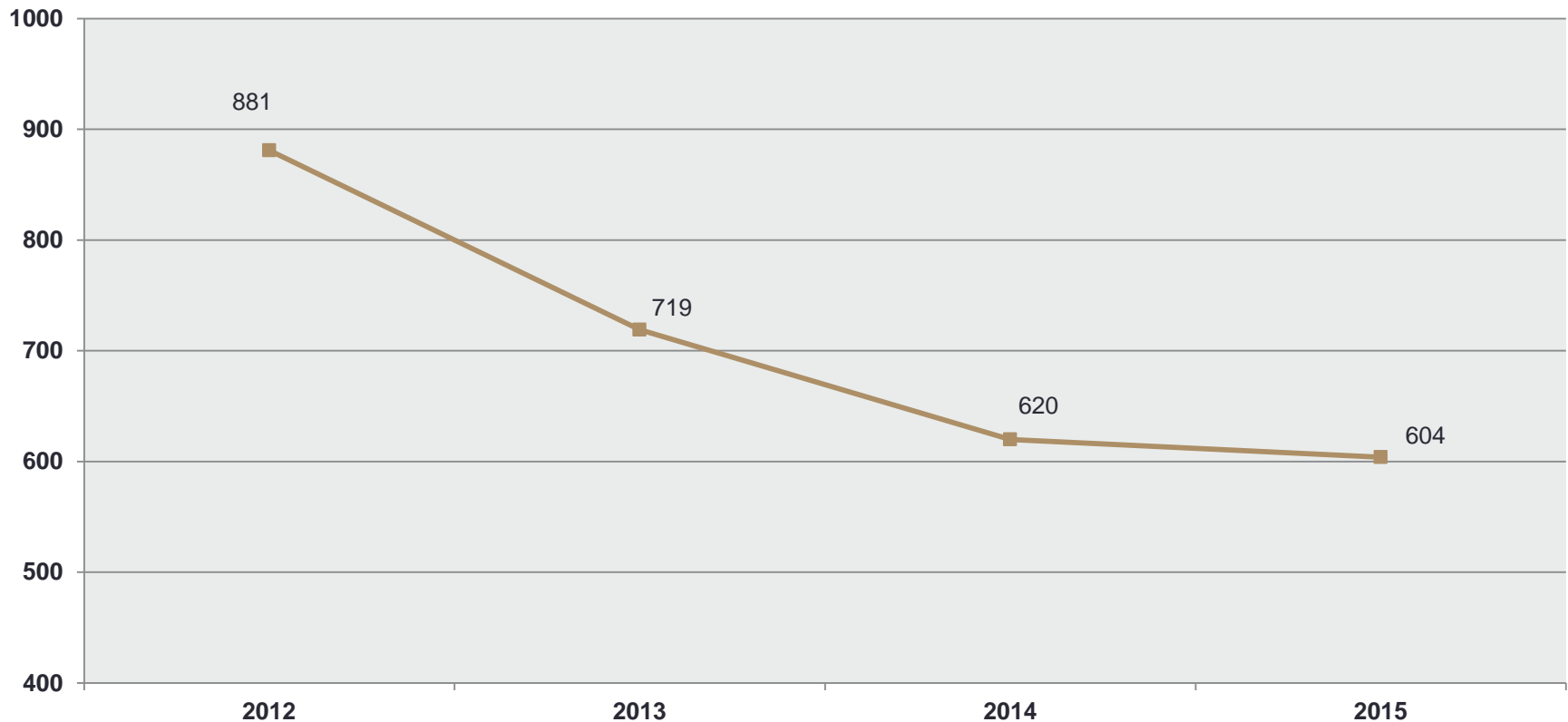
23% decrease from Jan. 2010 - 2015



Virginia's 2015 Point-in-Time Count

Veterans

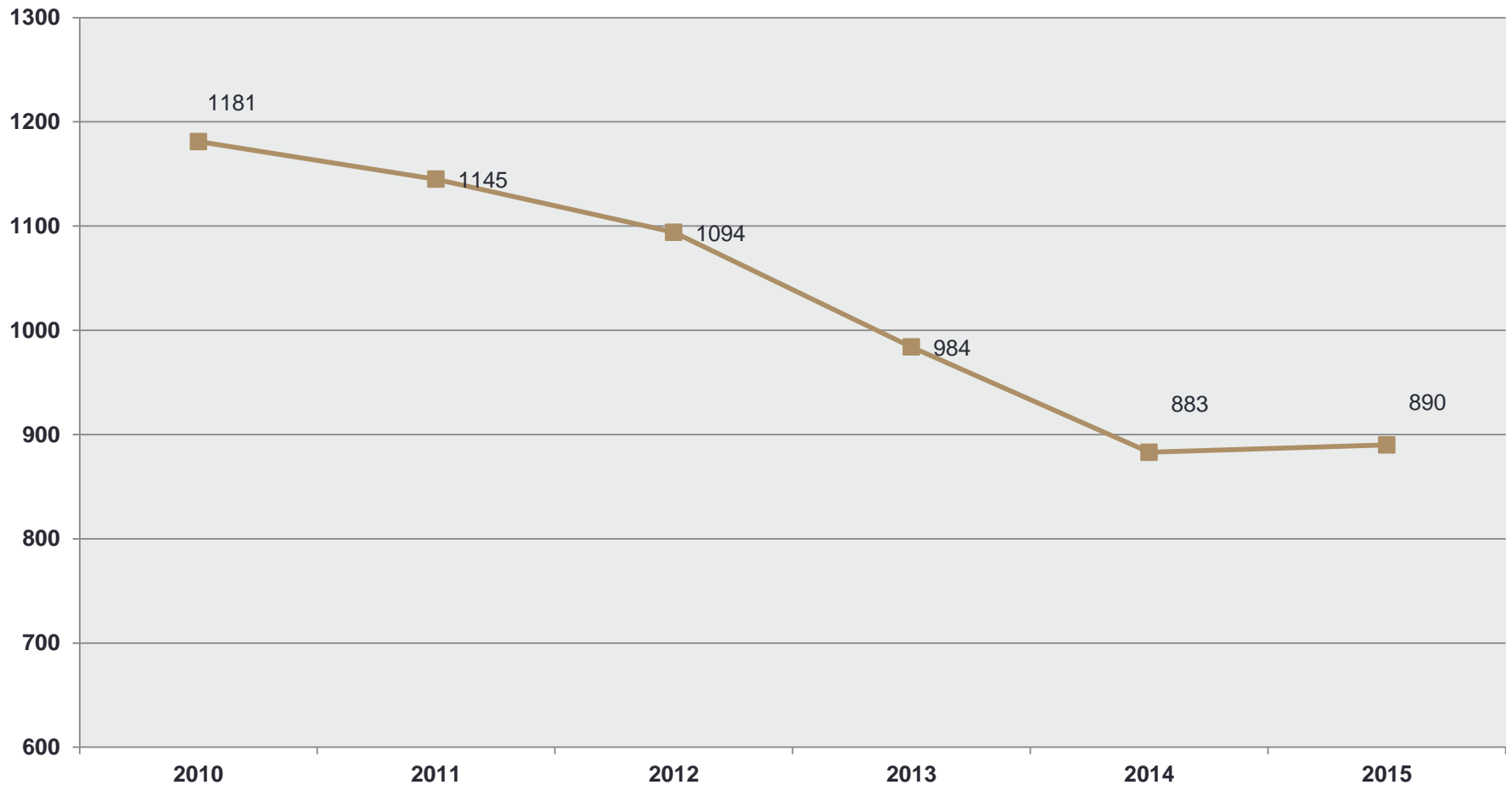
31% decrease from 2012 - 2015



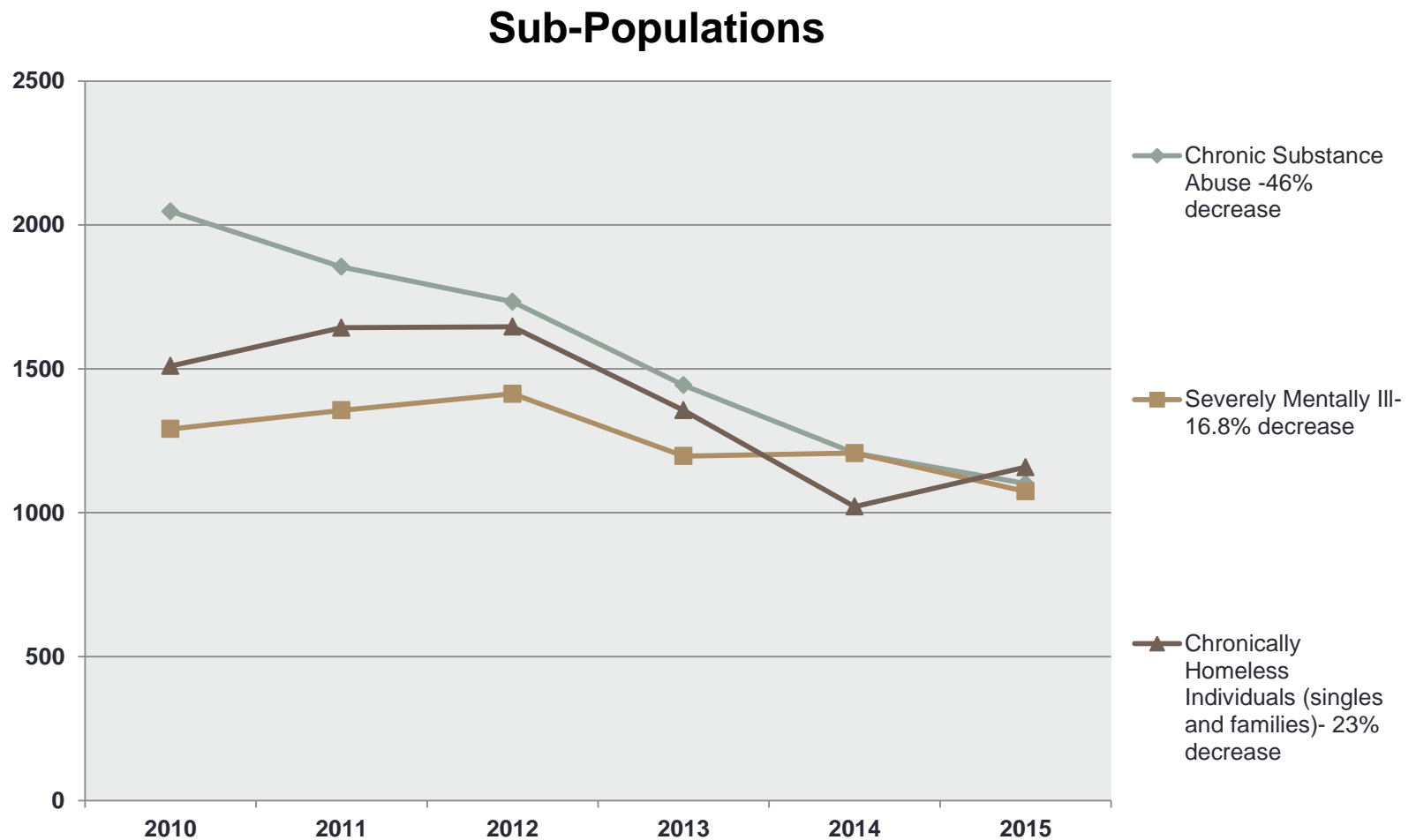
Virginia's 2015 Point-in-Time Count

Households with Adults and Children

24.6% decrease from Jan. 2010 - 2015



Virginia's 2015 Point-in-Time Count



THE HEARTH ACT AND HOUSING FIRST

CITY OF MEDICINE HAT
Canadian City Ends Its Homelessness Problem
Posted by NowThis
465,807 Views

NOWTHIS
NT



THIS CANADIAN CITY **HAS SOLVED ITS HOMELESS PROBLEM**

HEARTH Act and its implications

- Major shift in homeless services funding:
 - Moving away from temporary housing/shelter focus to permanent housing solutions
 - Operational requirements mandate more formal and objective local processes
 - Emphasis on data and performance
 - Emphasis on meaningful community coordination and system development

Housing First: A Simple Idea with Bold Perspective

“The Housing First model is simple: provide housing first, and then combine that housing with supportive treatment services in the areas of mental and physical health, substance abuse, education, and employment.”

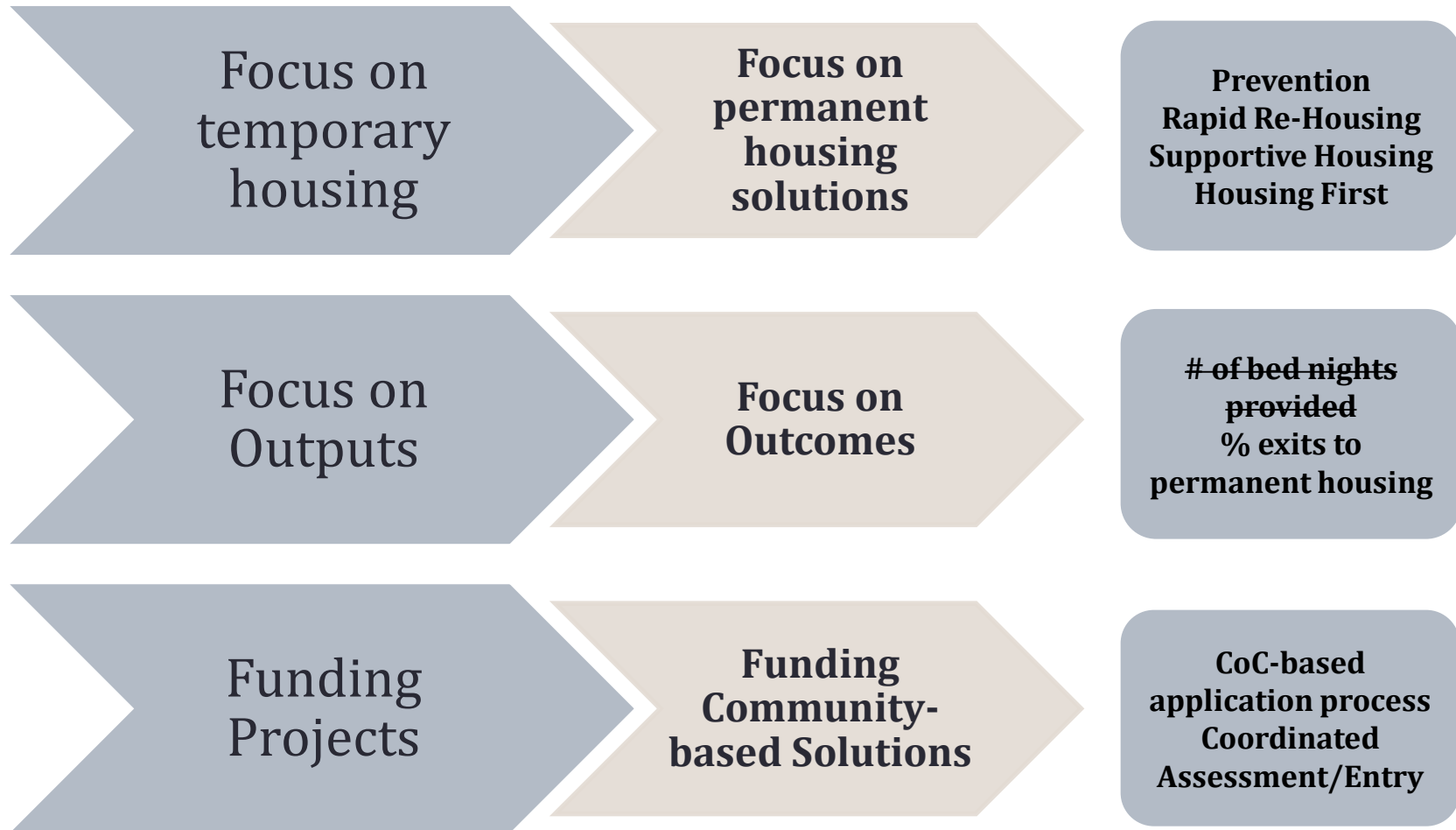
– Pathways to Housing

Homelessness should be a
RARE,
BRIEF,
and
NON-RECURRING event.

Housing Ready vs. Housing First

HOUSING READY	HOUSING FIRST
Time Limits – Client resides in shelter, transitional, or temporary housing and then moves on	No time limits – Client moves to permanent housing of their own ASAP and does not have to move on
Focus on participation in services first	Focus on accessing housing first
Starts with treatment and then access to housing	Starts with housing and at the same time, access to community-based services
Compliance with rules and mandatory participation in services	Abide only by traditional lease requirements Supportive, stabilization services available but not required
Screen out people who are not sober, are unemployed, etc.	Screen in and serve everyone

Federal and State Policy Shifts



System Performance Measures

↓ Length of time people experience homelessness

↓ Number of people experiencing homelessness

↓ Number of new (first time) people experiencing homelessness

↓ Returns to homelessness

↑ Exits to permanent housing

↑ Income and employment

BEST PRACTICES IN HOUSING FIRST

Emergency Shelter

- **Basic Roles: Meet basic needs (meals, hygiene, safety) and ensure a quick pathway from entry to exit to housing**
- **Housing focused from the start: Solution to homelessness IS housing**
- **Diverting households when there are other options: keeps shelter beds open for those that need it the most**
- **Low barriers to entry**
- **Connections with Rapid Re-housing and Permanent Supportive Housing resources**

Rapid Re-Housing

“...provision of housing relocation and stabilization services and short and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to help a homeless individual or family move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing.” –
Emergency Solutions Grant

Rapid Re-Housing: Key Activities

- **Housing barrier assessment**
- **Landlord recruitment and housing search**
- **Financial assistance**
- **Home-based case management with voluntary stabilization services**



Rapid Re-Housing: Program Orientation and Policies

- Quickly (RAPID!) Re-Housing clients
- Strength based approach focusing on client identified services
- Services are flexible, voluntary and HOUSING-FOCUSED
- RRH providers cannot require that program participants engage in services
- Leases that program participants obtain are the same as leases that renters in the community obtain

Permanent Supportive Housing



Affordable Housing

Longer term assistance

+

Flexible, Voluntary Supportive Services

- Prioritized for the hardest to serve, most vulnerable, chronically homeless
- Affordable – ideally household pays no more than 30% of its income toward rent
- Permanent – no limits on length of tenancy

FACT:

At least 80 percent of tenants in permanent supportive housing are stably housed and do not return to homelessness.

HOMELESS SERVICE PLANNING AND COLLABORATION

Continuum of Care

Broad group of stakeholders coming together to end homelessness in a community

- Required by US Housing & Urban Development (HUD) in order to receive funding targeted for homeless services
- Established in 1995
- Not required to be a legal entity



Purpose of the Continuum of Care (CoC)

- Promote community-wide goals to end homelessness
- Provide funding to quickly re-house homeless people while minimizing trauma and dislocation
- Promote access to and effective use of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families
- Optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness

Typical CoC Membership

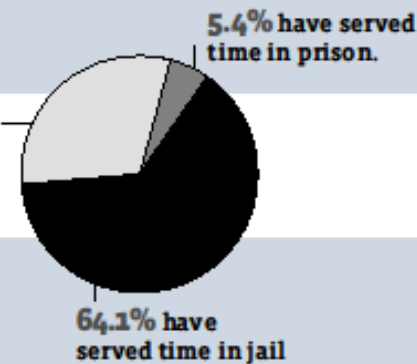
- Nonprofit homeless providers
- Victim services providers
- Faith-based organizations
- Governments
- Businesses
- Advocates
- Public housing agencies
- School districts
- Social service providers
- Workforce Development Boards/ Programs
- Mental health agencies
- Hospitals
- Universities
- Affordable housing developers
- Law enforcement
- Organizations serving homeless veterans
- Homeless & formerly homeless individuals

*These are suggested but not required members.

Overlap Between Homelessness and Incarceration

71.8% of all individuals experiencing homelessness have spent time in jail or prison.

30.5% have served time in both jail and prison



Frequency of Incarceration for Homeless Ex-Offenders:

43.3%
1-2 times

28.4%
3-5 times

16.7%
6-10 times

11.7%
10+ times

31.7% reported being homeless before incarceration.

45.7% indicated that they were homeless upon release.

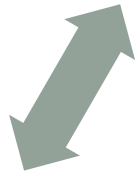
In March 2011, Homeward reviewed the overlap between shelter usage and incarceration at the Richmond City Jail (RCJ) from 2006 - 2011.

32.4% (2865/8289) of adults who had stayed in area shelters had been in jail during the five-year period.



7.4% (2865/36,377) of RCJ inmates had been in an area shelter during the five-year period.

Streamlining
of delivery
of services



Communication



Collaboration